

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20

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R 250406Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8072

UNCLAS BEIRUT 2890

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PERP LE US

SUBJECT: LEBANESE FRONT REPRESENTATION AT AMERICAN LEBANESE
LEAGUE CONGRESS

REF: BEIRUT 2740

1. BEIRUT PRESS MAY 22 REPORTED MEETING OF "AMERICAN LEBANESE LEAGUE" IN WASHINGTON OVER WEEKEND. ACCORDING TO LE REVEIL, BACHIR GEMAYEL, DORY CHAMOUN AND MOHAMMAD MOGHRABI ADDRESSED THE MEETING, STRESSING TRADITIONAL "LEBANESE FRONT" THEMES. PAPER SAID MEETING ADOPTED TWO RESOLUTIONS: 1) A REQUEST THAT THE USG SUPPORT THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AND SPARE NO EFFORTS TO SAFEGUARD THE SECURITY OF LEBANON, ITS INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY; 2) A STATEMENT TO THE USG OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PRESERVATION OF LEBANON IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN FOR DEMOCRACY AND THE FREE WORLD.

2. L'ORIENT-LE JOUR MAY 22 CARRIED WHAT APPEARED TO BE A PHALANGE PRESS OFFICE RELEASE, FOCUSED ENTIRELY ON BACHIR GEMAYEL'S "IMPORTANT ADDRESS" AT THE CLOSING FUNCTION OF THE CONGRESS ON MAY 20. STORY SAID THAT "REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON STRESSED THE MASSIVE ADHERENCE OF PARTICIPANTS TO THE ARGUMENT OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE UNIFIED LEBANESE FORCES." L'ORIENT REPORTS THAT ALL ADOPTED "IMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS WHICH WILL NOT
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BE MADE PUBLIC UNTIL THEY HAVE BEEN COMMUNICATION TO THE US ADMINISTRATION AND THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES." STORY SAID BACHIR GEMAYEL LEFT WASHINGTON MAY 21 FOR NEW YORK, WHERE HE WOULD ADDRESS "COUNCIL OF PROTESTANT CHURCHES", AND WOULD STRESS THE NECESSITY OF MASSIVE SUPPORT TO THE LEBANESE TO PERMIT THEM TO "LIBERATE THEIR COUNTRY" AND TO ESTABLISH "AN INDEPENDENT AND LIBERAL STATE." IKE MAY 23 SAID BACHIR AND DORY "ARE MEETING

WITH US OFFICERS AND LEGISLATORS."

3. BOTH IKE AND LE REVEIL MAY 23 CARRIED PHOTO OF BACHIR AND DORY WITH AMBASSADOR GHASSAN TUEINI AND OTHERS, AT CHURCH IN BROOKLYN MAY 21. REVEIL REPORTS DECLARATION BY BACHIR CALLING FOR "ALL THE FOREIGN ARMIES TO LEAVE LEBANON." REVEIL SAID THAT DORY WOULD NEXT VISIT CANADA. L'ORIENT-LE JOUR MAY 23 NOTED THAT BACHIR HAD MET WITH NEW ALL PRESIDENT ROBERT BASILE AND THAT THE LATTER IS A RANKING PENTAGON OFFICIAL.

4. BACHIR RETURNED TO BEIRUT MAY 23. HE TOLD L'ORIENT-LE JOUR, "THE PRINCIPAL RESULT OF (MY) VISIT HAS BEEN THE UNIFICATION OF LEBANESE EMIGRANTS IN THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE AMERICAN LEBANESE LEAGUE. I BELIEVE WE HAVE ACHIEVED AN HISTORIC EFFORT."
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